



Navy Environmental Health Center
Sexual Health and Responsibility Program (SHARP)

Sexual Partner Counseling and Referral

Objective: Improve the ability of Naval health care and health care support professionals to work with patients infected with sexually transmitted infections to bring their sexual partners to testing, treatment, and prevention counseling.

Course Overview: Five-hour course. Students learn the four referral options and 11-step partner referral process. Navy/Marine Corps-specific circumstances and issues are explored. Students use role-plays to improve their one-on-one counseling skills of working with patients to bring their partners to testing and treatment. Navy CANTRAC data: CIN B-322-2223; CDP 760M; Short Title PCRS.

Continuing Education Credit: Naval Medical Education and Training Command, Bethesda, Maryland designates this educational activity for a maximum of 4.5 Category 1 credits toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Also NMETC approved for 5 contact hours for IDCs, and NEHA approved for 5 contact hours for CEHT and RS.

Target Audience: Physicians, Independent Duty Corpsmen, nurses, Preventive Medicine Technicians, PM Representatives, PM Petty Officers and family counselors.

This course is provided to all Preventive Medicine Technicians (effective January 2003) and all Surface Force Independent Duty Corpsmen (effective August 2003) at the Naval School of Health Sciences (San Diego). SHARP also conducts the course at NEHC in Portsmouth and other sites upon request.

Prerequisites: Strongly recommend completing the self-study version of this course, which may be downloaded from the SHARP website or ordered in hardcopy from SHARP.

SHARP Course Schedule is available at <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/sharp/index.htm>.

Requests for Training: Requests by your base or Command to host an iteration of this course may be coordinated with SHARP.

"Few physicians engage in partner notification, and most instruct patients to self-report to the health department or notify partners themselves. This reliance on patient notification represents a gap between common practice and our knowledge of its effectiveness".¹

The SHARP PCRS course improves the ability of providers and patients to successfully notify and refer potentially infected partners and strengthens collaboration between primary care and preventive medicine.

1. St Lawrence, et al (2002) Am J of Public Health 90(11);1784-1788

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